MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM14-0172012		
Date Assigned:	10/23/2014	Date of Injury:	06/25/2009
Decision Date:	11/21/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/15/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/17/2014

HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to an expert reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine and is licensed to practice in Connecticut. He/she has been in active clinical practice for more than five years and is currently working at least 24 hours a week in active practice. The expert reviewer was selected based on his/her clinical experience, education, background, and expertise in the same or similar specialties that evaluate and/or treat the medical condition and disputed items/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

After careful review of the medical records, this is a 41 year old male with complaints of bilateral upper extremity pain. The date of injury is 6/25/09 and the mechanism of injury is shearing stress/penetrating injury to finger leading to current symptoms. At the time of request for Celebrex 200mg one daily as needed #30, there is subjective (bilateral upper extremity pain) and objective (healed surgical scar right finger, sensitivity/pain to right elbow, wrist, middle finger, tenderness right arm/shoulder region, tenderness cervical spine region with tightness of musculature, decreased sensory right upper extremity, dysesthesia lateral upper arms and forearm bilaterally, hyperesthesia right forearm and right elbow) findings, imaging/other findings (EMG upper extremities normal), diagnoses (causalgia upper limb, peripheral neuropathy, upper extremity pain), and treatment to date (spinal cord stimulation, medications, surgical nerve decompression, acupuncture). Celebrex is the brand name for Celecoxib, and it is produced by Pfizer. Celecoxib is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) that is a COX-2 selective inhibitor, a drug that directly targets COX-2, an enzyme responsible for inflammation and pain. Unlike other NSAIDs, Celecoxib does not appear to interfere with the antiplatelet activity of aspirin and is bleeding neutral when patients are being considered for surgical intervention or interventional pain procedures. Per MTUS-Chronic Pain Medication Treatment Guidelines, there is inconsistent evidence for the use of NSAID medications to treat long term neuropathic pain. However, they may be useful to treat mixed pain conditions such as osteoarthritis and neuropathic pain combination. The lowest possible dose should be used in attempt to avoid adverse effects.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

The Final Determination was based on decisions for the disputed items/services set forth below:

Celebrex 200mg One daily prn #30: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs (anti-inflammatory drugs) regarding: Celebrex (Celecoxib).

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs Page(s): 67-73. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pain (Chronic), Celebrex (Celecoxib)

Decision rationale: Celebrex is the brand name for Celecoxib, and it is produced by Pfizer. Celecoxib is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) that is a COX-2 selective inhibitor, a drug that directly targets COX-2, an enzyme responsible for inflammation and pain. Unlike other NSAIDs, Celecoxib does not appear to interfere with the antiplatelet activity of aspirin and is bleeding neutral when patients are being considered for surgical intervention or interventional pain procedures. Per MTUS-Chronic Pain Medication Treatment Guidelines, there is inconsistent evidence for the use of NSAID medications to treat long term neuropathic pain. However, they may be useful to treat mixed pain conditions such as osteoarthritis and neuropathic pain combination. The lowest possible dose should be used in attempt to avoid adverse effects. As there is documentation of efficacy of pharmacologic therapy in the medical records provided as well as failure of Ibuprofen and Naproxen, the request for Celebrex 200mg is medically necessary.